

# His Majesties most Gracious SPEECH to both Houses of Parliamente, with ADDITIONS and EXPLICATIONS.

Directed to the House of Commons by the Free-born People of England.

**T**his Speech you had very lately in the Original; and because it is so very *valuable*, we presume the Repetition of it, together with some few *additions*, and *Explanations*, may not be unacceptable to you, nor yet unworthy your Consideration: And when you come to consider the Speech if you please withall to consider the respective Notes and Explanations, we are persuaded that the whole Kingdom will concur with us, that in so doing you will neither dishonour your Character, nor act unbefittingly your high Station; nor betray the Trust reposed in you by the Commons of England.

*And the first place, Gentlemen, his Majesty tells you, that he is very glad to meet you again in Parliamente; where: I have a responsibility of thanking you for the great Supplies you have given me for the Prosecution of this War; and I hope, by your Advice and Assistance, which has never failed me, to take such Measures as may be most proper for supporting our Common Interest, against the excessive Power of France.*

*Now, Gentlemen, We, as free Denizens of England, have leave to shew to you, that this Paragraph contains a very great Truth; and confirmed by simple and undoubted Testimony; all the People of England will in this point be of one Mind for the King, that indeed you have given him very great Supplies; and such as never before were given to a King of England, what Wars or Occasions soever they had. And in this point the King and all the People are agreed, that you are the most liberal H. of Commons that ever sat within these Walls: This therefore is no question, and can never be denied, and not by the most obstinate. But there is another Question that immediately follows in the title of it; and that is, What is the use of these great Supplies? To what uses have they been put? Have the English Soldiers and Soldiers been paid with them? Have they not been diverted into private Channells, or put into Foreigners Pockets? Out of all the vast Provisions you have made, the Land Forces have scarce had Subsistence money; and the Seamen not so much as that; but were left to live upon the Credit of what you will give: And does it not deserve your Enquiry where is the rest? and how hath it been disposed? Hereof England hath singly waged War with France, and the Parliamente never gave the fourth part of what you have done; and yet the Soldiers were honestly paid, and over and above a good Summe remaining in the K's Coffers: But you have Germany, Spain, Savoy, and Holland to join with you; and yet your own Quota not paid; but left to clamour and distemper; who you have given enough to maintain the whole Army of the Confederates. It is true the K. gives you Thanks for your great Supplies; and it must be confessed that the Royal Thanks deserve a just regard; and it may be, may be worth to much Money: But if the K. had been pleased to tell you, that you had given him great Supplies; and he had taken care that your own Countrymen were only the better for it, that he had not disposed it to the Dutch, or to others, and laid the whole Accounts before you to examine and inspect; it is probable this might have given the People more satisfaction than all the Thanks in the World. The People of England indeed love Civility*

well; but withall they love to be satisfied what becomes of their Money. In the mean  
time the K. only thanks you for the Money you have given him, as if you deserved  
Thanks for nothing else. This would not have escaped Reflection in the late Reign,  
and you should have been told that it favoured of Arbitrary Power, and if Parliaments  
were called for nothing else but to give Money; and if you deserve Thanks for no-  
thing else, it is plain that is lookt upon as the main End of your Meeting, and that  
of all your Proceedings, is only grateful to the Government: Your several Endeavors  
about securing Liberty and Property, your Concernments about the *Publick* *Corps*,  
Regulating Tryals for Treason, and some other things of Advantage to the Subject,  
(which proved abortive, and you know by whose means,) one would think might  
have merited some Thanks from a Prince who should be thought the great Patron of  
both; and who in this very Speech tells you, *You cannot be more concerned for the Pro-  
servation of your Liberties and Enlargement of your Rights, than that it seems in none of your  
meritorious Works*: and some of you can tell what little Thanks you received for be-  
ing so much concerned for it; and your being from'd upon, and strid out of your  
Places is an Instance of it; however the same be not the Subject of Royal Gratitude,  
yet your giving of Money is: But here is a question, whether these Thanks be design'd  
for the Supplies you have given, or only introductory of what you shall give? You  
may easily satisfy your selves in this point, if do but withhold your Hands a little,  
and you will soon perceive it: For when Thanks come with Demands in the mouth  
of them, it speaks as if you were thank'd not for the good Works you have done, but  
for those you shall do. And if this will do, it is certainly an easie course to deal with  
an English Parliament: and in a short time every penny in the Nation may be thanks  
into the *Quakers* pockets. And if this will serve you instead of examining Accounts,  
and enquiring into the Expence of the Nation: I reason, singly, the Experiment  
should first be made on the Soldiers and Seamen: Let them have the Royal Thanks for  
their Blood and Fighting, and try if it will stop their Mouths, or find Food and  
Clothing for themselves and Families. If Thanks will go instead of Pay, by our Con-  
sent they shall go for *Armenians* too. But if they will not operate on the Fleet or Army,  
neither ought they to charm the *Houſe*, or blinden you from enquiring into the dispo-  
sition of those Commissions you gave for these very Uses. And there are other persons  
who are as much concerned in besides the Kings, the People you represent, and whose  
Portion you have so freely disposed: If you shall from time to time give immense  
Sums, and in the meantime are very slack in enquiring what becomes of them, you  
may indeed have the Thanks of the K. but you can never expect those of the People.  
and We have great reason to rejoice in the happy History, which by the Blessing of God we  
rejoice in as such, and I wish I could tell you better the Satisfactions I and had been a witness  
of it. *What* *from* *your* *Subjects* *and* *remembrance* *in* *both* *but* *their* *Bravery*  
*and* *Courage* *will* *not* *be* *remov'd* *from* *this* *History* *and* *W* *begin* *what*  
Now as to the Victory at Sea, all We shall observe is, That the King is very  
modest, he calls it a happy History, rather than a wonderful one, what fullsome and  
balmish blasphemous Epithets forever some *flourishing* Divines have put upon it. But  
the King is so well enough, that when there was more odds than two to one, with  
an *Almighty* God he called any thing rather than a miracle, as to the Honours at Land  
which were obtained, not obtruding to you, that the King had in his Eye the Loss of  
*his* *Army* *and* *the* *Barrel* *at* *Signet* *and* *his* *disadvantage* *that* *the* *King* *does* *not*  
now tell you as he did this time Two years ago. That he was so much oblig'd to go  
into the *Field* *for* *as* *he* *should* *have* *done* *more* *over* *than* *Four* *times* *in* *the* *war*;  
for your Supplies were large and seasonable, and he was at the head of a great and  
invincible Army, and more numerous by far than his Enemies, and all that Action

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 all the remarkable part the King and his Army had, was to stand still, and see the Town taken before their Eyes; and which indeed was very remarkable. But for *Stipend*, in that Action the King's Subjects (meaning the *English* and *Extending the Dutch*) had a very remarkable part; for they were most remarkably killed on this Head, to the number of several Thousands. And certainly it deserves the Remark of you, and all the People of England: By whose Care and Conduct your Brethren were placed in a Post of such Danger: How it came to pass that they were never relieved nor supported, but were left to be slaughtered like so many Dogs: As if *Englishmen* in the Confederate Army, were of the same use with *Christians* in that of the Turks heretofore, to set them foremost to blunt the Swords of their Enemies. If you have any regard for the Blood of your Countrymen, these things can never escape your Enquiry: For certainly the Success of that Action did more immediately concern the *Spaniards*, and the *Dutch*, than the *English*; for the War is flaming at their doors, but we are more remote: And also when a Man's Neighbour's House is on fire, there is reason for him to look to his own; yet none but a Madman will burn himself to save his Neighbour's Goods; who will not venture to save them himself. *Flanders* and *Holland* are the immediate Subjects of Danger, and surely *Englishmen* perforce fairly and honourably their part of the Confederacy, if they venture as far as they; but to be set up as Marks to be shot at, to let them sleep in whole Skins, and to skreen their Retreat, and then to smooth it over with the name of *Bravery*, is like sending Men first to a Slaughter-house, and then calling them brave for being manfully butcher'd. And when those wise *Princes* are so sparing of their People, what reason is there that we should be so prodigal of ours, except an *Englishman* be less valued by an *English King*, than a *Dutchman* by the *States* and *Spanish*, and than a *Fleming* by the *Spaniard*?

*The French are repairing their Losses at Sea with great Diligence, and do design to augment their Land Forces considerably against the next Campaign; which makes it absolutely necessary for our Safety, that at least as great a Force be maintain'd at Sea and Land, as we had the last Year; and therefore I must ask you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, a Supply suitable to so great an Occasion.*

If we understand the K. right in this paragraph, he demands of you the same Supplies you gave him last year; for he tells you, 'tis absolutely necessary that at least as great a Force be maintain'd as we had last year; and suppose you should give them, what Wonders do you expect from them? The K. tells you the French are considerably augmenting their Forces; and do you think that greater Feats will be done this year, against a more numerous Force, than was the last against a less? Is it worth five Millions for a *Generalissimo* and his Army to see a great Town taken from them? Or to have 10000 Men kill'd to save the Skins of the *Spaniards* and *Dutch*? Or, finally, will the *Land* and *Sea* men be better paid? And is it not a thousand times better to keep our Money in our pockets, than to give so many Millions, and drain the Heart's blood of the Nation, and all to have nothing done, but another year's Arrears added to the publick Debt of the Kingdom? The Soldiers were not paid with the last Supplies you gave, how great soever they were; nor will they be paid by what you give now, tho' it should be twice as much; there are Foreigners ready enough to receive it, should you give treble the value of the whole Kingdom, and in good truth it has hitherto been our Money that hath paid their Forces; and yet our Soldiers must be exposed to all the Dangers, and fight their Battels, even without Pay, when they are paid with our Money, to lie still and see our Men kill'd: And if they will not fight to save their own Towns, nor yet to help our Men, surely (if they were honest Soldiers) they ought at least to fight for the Pay you gave them.

And therefore we pray you farther to observe upon this point, That the Princes in Confederacy with us are as thrifty of their Money as their Men; what is the complest *Quota* of the *German*, the *Spaniard*, the *Savoyard*, and the *Dutch*; and what Supplies have they respectively raised, or propose to raise, for the maintenance of the next Campaign. This surely highly deserves your Enquiry; for the Danger and the War too is primarily theirs, and if the Burthen must lie heavy somewhere, surely it ought to lie upon them. It apparently concerns you to enquire into the state of the War abroad, and to proportion your Supplies according to the Standard of the rest of the Confederates; for there is no reason in the World that this Kingdom should be exhausted and beggar'd, and at the same time *Holland* continue in a state of Opulency and Plenty. There is a Project on foot, that if the Parliament will give Supplies, (with a Clause in the Act of Lending,) the *Dutchmen* will lend the Money, and receive the Advantage of the Interest, and of the Return to *Flanders*. And if they are so able to lend, truly let them give to maintain the War; for their Interest in the War is much more than ours, and it is enough in all Conscience to suffer our Men to be kill'd to save their Persons, and not also to suffer our People to be impoverish'd to save their *Purses*.

I am very sensible how heavy this Charge is upon my People, and it extremely afflicts me; that 'tis not possible to be avoided without exposing our selves to inevitable Ruine and Destruction. The Inconvenience of sending out of the Kingdom great Sums of Money for the Payment of the Troops abroad, is indeed very considerable, and I so much wish it could be remedied, that if you can suggest to Me any Methods for the Support of them, which may lessen this Inconvenience, I shall be ready to receive them with all the Satisfaction imaginable.

Here the K. tells you, that he is sensible of the Inconvenience of sending great Sums of Money out of the Kingdom to pay the Troops abroad: But this is exprest ambiguously; What Troops abroad does the K. mean? The 20th part of the Money that hath been sent out of the Kingdom would have paid the *English* Troops abroad; and yet they are not paid neither: And certainly there are no great Sums sent out of the Kingdom to pay Troops that never were paid. You gave great Sums indeed, and the K. confesses great Sums have been sent of the Kingdom to pay Troops abroad; and it is the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry, what Troops these were: Our own Troops were not paid; and if these great Sums were sent out to pay them, then the Money is embezzled, and it ought to be searcht in whose hands it was lodged, that they may refund it, and pay them now, and save the Nation so much, and so much less given by the present Supplies. And if this be the case, his Majesty need not long wish to have it remedied; for the Methods are very easie to suggest: Do but you take care that no Troops abroad are paid with our Money but our own, and put it into the Hands of Commissioners of your own appointing; and then our Troops will be paid, and the remitting Sums to pay them abroad will be no such mighty Inconvenience; our Merchants will transmit a great part of it in Trade, and the rest will not be felt: But if Foreigners have the finger in our Money, and it must come into the hands of *Dutch* Paymasters, if great Sums must be sent to *Germany*, *Spain*, *Savoy* and *Holland*; this is an Inconvenience we know no Methods to lessen, but by stopping the Sluces, and keeping our Money within the Kingdom. And it is a sober and great Truth, that if you do not speedily take care to prevent the prodigious Exportation of our Coin, in a short time we shall neither have Money to pay any Troops abroad, nor yet for the People to subsist at home.

None can desire more than I do that a Descent should be made into France; and therefore notwithstanding the Disappointment of that Design this last Summer, I intend to attempt it this next Year with a much more considerable Force; and as soon as I shall be enabled, all possible Care and Application shall be used towards it.

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The Descent into *France* this last Summer was a Mystery; but the meaning of proposing it now is very plain: 'Tis to invite you to give Money plentifully; and it must needs be a great Encouragement when *France* shall be made to repay it, or else to smart for it. Now this perhaps might have done with the credulous Mob; but to a grave and wise Senate is somewhat extraordinary. What an Opinion has the K. of your Wisedoms, if he thinks to make you believe that with 8 or 10000 Men he can over-run *France*: But perhaps *Declarations* may do Wonders, and the pretences of *Liberty* and *Religion* may work upon the Subjects and new Converts: This perhaps last Year might have prevail'd upon easie people, but cannot now; for the Experiment hath been made: The Duke of *Savoy* with a far greater number of Men than the K. is able to send, and with all the winning and tempting *Declarations* to all sorts of People. new Converts, *Papists*, *popish Priests*, entred *France*, ravaged at his pleasure, and had no body to oppose him for some time; and yet few or none of that K's Subjects, (*oppressed Subjects*,) nor of the new Converts join'd him. He carried indeed 15000 Arms in expectation of it; but soon found he was mistaken, and sent them all back into *Piedmont*: And it is not for nothing that the K. is silent of the D. of *Savoy's* Expedition. This sure might have gone for a happy *Victory*: the D. burnt more Towns than our Fleet did Ships, and the Damage *France* sustained in *Dauphins*, was far greater, and will be longer in repairing, than what they lost at Sea. But this, tho' it be the onely thing that can be said to mitigate the terrible Losses of the Confederates at Land, yet it must be passed over with profound silence, because then it would soon be perceived what a fruitless thing a Descent upon *France* would be; and so one of the most plausible Pretences for giving Money would be perfectly lost. However a Descent was designed last Summer, and the K. tells you it was disappointed; and certainly that Miscarriage highly deserves your Inspection: Great Sums were spent upon the Preparations, and all lost for want of Conduct and Management; and surely at this time of day there is little need to throw away 5 or 600000 l. for no other purpose but to fail 30 Leagues at Sea, and return.

And upon this occasion I cannot omit taking notice of that signal Deliverance, which by the good Providence of God We received this last Spring, to the Disappointment and Confusion of our Enemies Designs and Expectations. This has sufficiently shewn us how much we are exposed to the Attempts of *France*, while that King is in a Condition to make them. Let us therefore improve the Advantage we have at this time, of being joined with most of the Princes and States of Europe, against so dangerous an Enemy. In this sure all Men will agree who have any Love for their Countrey, or any Zeal for our Religion: I cannot therefore doubt but you will continue to support me in this War against the declared Enemy of this Nation, and that you will give as speedy Dispatch to the Affairs before you, as the Nature and Importance of them will admit, that our Preparations may be timely and effectual for the Preservation of all that is dear and valuable to Us.

In this paragraph the K. advises you to lay hold of this opportunity against *France*, because you are joined with most of the Princes and States of Europe; and yet neither *Denmark*; nor *Sweden*, nor *Portugal*, nor the *Swiss Cantons*, nor the States of *Italy*, (except *Savoy*) nor *Venice*, nor *Poland*, are engaged in the Confederacy against *France*: And which is yet more remarkable, *Saxony* hath perfectly quitted it, *Brandenburg* acted so coldly last Summer, that in all probability he will leave it before next; and *Hanover* was brib'd into it by the hopes of an Electorate; but that failing, he endeavors to put himself into a state of Neutrality, and accordingly is already actually negotiating for that purpose in the Court of *France*; so as the next Campaign *France* will have fewer Enemies, and more Friends, than she had the last: The two Northern Crowns are not onely neutrals, but plainly incline to him; not only maintain a Trade with him, and assist him with materials for Shipping, but with a considerable number of Ships too, which they have sold him: *Genoa*, *Tuscany*, *Mantua* are upon the point of declaring for him; the *Swiss* in a manner have broke the Neutrality, and sided with *France*; not only by permitting him to levy Men publickly, but

but by prohibiting the *German* a passage through their Countrey: And *Wurtemberg*, if hea is not forced to comply with his Terms, is in no manner of Condition to do him Injury. And put all this together, and you will find the Confederacy against *France* is nothing near so formidable as it was the last Campaign: So that the joining of the Princes of Europe is no very taking Topick for you to part with Money; for you cannot expect to reap any Advantage from a declining Confederacy, when you have received nothing but Loss by it: when it was in its utmost Vigor, except it be the Advantage of having far greater Sums of your Money sent to the remaining part, to supply the places of them that leave it; for if so much of our Money was forced to go when they were all united, How much think you will they want of it when there is neither Men, nor other Assistance, from *Saxony*, *Brandenburgh*, *Hannover*, and *Wurtemberg*.

*I am sure I can have no Interest but what is yours: We have the same Religion to defend; and you cannot be more concerned for the Preservation of your Liberties and Properties, than I am that you should always remain in the full Possession and Enjoyment of them; for I have no Aim but to make you a happy People.*

This paragraph is wholly persuasive, and to gain you the more readily to comply with his Demands, the *K.* recommends himself to you: As in the first place, that *he can have no Interest but what is yours*, thereby meaning the *English Interest*. And this is absolutely necessary, and a point that ought to be first settled, before any Money be given; for if the Interest of the *K.* be divided from that of the People, it cannot be thought fit to trust him with the Treasure of the Nation, and to raise vast Sums, and put them into his Hands, which may be employed to the advantage of a Foreign Interest, and to the prejudice of yours. Now it can never be denied but the *K.* has actually a great Interest in *Holland*, and as Statholder his Interests are twisted with those of that Commonwealth, and which is the most prevailing Interest is best discerned by such Instances as will admit of comparison: Consider then what Care and Application was made to have 600000*l.* paid to the *Dutch*, as the Expence of the Expedition into *England*; and reflect also what little Care is taken to discharge the respective Debts to the Workmen at the several Yards, the transport Vessels in the service of the Government, and those who have furnished the Navy with Stores and Provisions: And it is a certain truth, that those of the last sort are forced to lend great Sums to the Government, to hook in their Debts; 20000*l.* must be lent to get the payment of ten, and then Tallies may be received for the whole; when at the same time the *Dutch* shall be punctually paid for all the materials wherewith they furnish the Government: So that if the respective Interests be to be measured by the Effects, the *English Interest* comes as far behind that of the *Dutch*, as such kind of Payments do that of ready Money. The *Dutch* Soldiers in the service of the Government are likewise duly paid, and perhaps with double Pay, while the *English* must shift as they can, and be hang'd besides if they grumble for it, though they must starve without it, as the late Proceedings at *Chatham* and *Portsmouth* may abundantly inform you. The pendulous and doubtful State of the *East-India* Company does also deserve consideration; the Charter and Incorporation are yet in the *K's* Breast; and What are the secret Reasons that hitherto have prevented its Establishment? It is notorious that the *E. India* Trade is of mighty advantage to the *Dutch*, and which they have endeavoured to engross to themselves, and to out the *English* by all Arts, fair or foul, ever since the first beginning of it, and nothing can be more grateful to them than to have the *English* Trade broken or divided, or to stand upon such a precarious and unsettled Bottom, as may discourage the Merchants. This is an advantage they know how to make use of; and the unsettled posture of our *Company* here apparently tends to the fortifying and improving their Interest, and the diminution of ours: And that which is more considerable than all the rest, it deserves Enquiry for whose Advantage we have been engaged in this expensive, and in truth

unnecessary War; it hath cost the Kingdom more Treasure perhaps than all the Wars of England since the Conquest put together; the positive Expence of it (taking in all the Losses at Sea) hath been near 40 Millions already, (besides the Privative in the Loss and Decay of Trade,) and for what end? If the matter be narrowly lookt into, it is apparently to save the Dutch Charges, and to preserve their Barriers: For had we kept our selves in Peace, and preserved our Trade, our Men, and our Money, it is evident to all the World, that tho' the Dutch indeed must have been at a greater Expence, yet England by a thousand degrees would have been more able to balance the Affairs of Europe than now we are: It is apparent enough therefore that this War, and all the Charge we have been at, was purely for the sake of the Dutch. To this add the great Prevalency of Dutch Counsels: Have my Ld. Portland and Monfr. Oувirkirk no other Interests but yours? And the Affections of a K. are best known by his Ministers; and when the great Affairs of State shall be managed by their Advice, we may be sure the Dutch will be no Losers. And if all this be put together, 'tis apparent there is another great Interest besides that of England, and which will turn the Byalls when these Interests interfere; and when they come to be put in a Balance against each other, the Stadtholder will weigh down the K. It appears therefore to be no Complement, when the K. four years since, in a Letter to the States General, acquainted them, that he accepted the Crown of England, that he might be in a better condition to do them service.

The next thing he insists upon is Religion, meaning the Protestant Religion, and he tells you, *We have the same Religion to defend*, intimating the War you have been engaged in to be a *Religious War*; and yet the Kings of Denmark and Sweden (both very good Protestants themselves, and Kings of Protestant Countries) have another opinion of it; they can turn the Balance when they please, and if they thought their Religion at stake, they would espouse the Interest of the Confederates; but their Neutrality plainly speaks, that they think Religion is not concerned either way, and that the Posture of the Protestant Religion will be much the same, which side soever get the better. Surely we are not to take the Confederacy for a *holy League*; the late Pope was at the bottom of it, and it requires a strong Faith to believe that the Pope would form a Confederacy for the Advantage and Defence of the Protestant Religion: And the Emperor, who hath severely persecuted his Protestant Subjects in Hungary, and the King of Spain, under whom the bloody Inquisition reigns, are like to be admirable Defenders of the Protestant Religion; and yet these are the Persons you must court, and you are invited to maintain an expensive and devouring Alliance with the most bigotted Papists in the World, and no doubt in defence of the Protestant Religion. The Sheep may as well confederate with the Wolves, and they will be as hopeful Guardians for their Lambs, as the Inquisition is for Protestant Religion. If the Articles of Alliance were publick, you would soon see what great Care has been taken of our Religion: But these must be kept as a secret, and yet you are provoked to empty and exhaust the Kingdom in defence of a Confederacy, the Terms of which are a Mystery, and you must by no means be permitted the knowledge of. In the mean time 'tis plain enough, that the K. in Virtue of it is obliged to defend and protect the Papists against the Laws; and the large and strange Concessions to the Papists in Ireland, and the great care taken here to rescue them from the Laws, and to discharge the Prosecution of them, is a demonstration of it. So that if the Confederacy must be denominated from Religion, 'tis plainly a *Papist Confederacy*, for it has some regard to the safety and welfare of that, but none at all to the Protestant Religion. And in farther Evidence of this it need only be asked whether the Emperor and K. of Spain be obliged by it to tolerate and give Liberty of Conscience to the Protestants in their respective Dominions, as the King is here to the Papists, and if not, (which no Man can doubt,) then 'tis plain, that all the Religion the Confederacy takes care of is Popery. And so far as Religion is concerned in the case,

you



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You are encouraged to give Supplies to maintain the *Inquisition* in Spain, and in the Empire  
Persecution of Protestants, and Toleration and Liberty to Papi in Engl. Scotl. and Ireland.

Besides, it is very observable, that those Princes who have already and are about to  
join the Confederacy, are of the Protestant Religion; *Sweden* actually hath, and *Brandenburgh* and *Hanover* are upon the point of leaving it. These Princes know well the Ends  
of the Confederacy, having themselves been engaged in it; and it seems they fear no such  
Immolation of Popery, and the Protestant Religion is as dear them as to us: And it is a  
plain case, that what Advantage soever the Emperor and Spaniard may receive by it, they  
are sure the Protestant Religion will receive none.

Our Religion therefore, however suggested to encourage the giving Supplies, is in truth  
foreign to the whole Matter; and the K. of Spain may as well desire his Subjects to give  
him Money to maintain the *Inquisition*, as you, in the same Confederacy, to support the Pro-  
testant Religion: And it ought not to be forgotten that *Sebastien*, upon his Entrance into  
France, by his Master's Command and Authority, emitted a Declaration, wherein, among  
other things, he declares to maintain the Popish Religion, (which hath escap'd the Translation,  
but is full in the Original.) And to this add the Destruction of Episcopacy in Scotland, and you  
must needs be satisfied, that all our Money will be expended in Defence of our Religion.

Next the K. tells, *That you cannot be more concerned for the Preservation of your Liberties*  
*and Properties than he.* If the K. be so much concerned for them, it is well; but we con-  
ceive that ought not to make you unconcerned: And however it comes to pass, there hath  
been as great and high a Violation of them in this, as in any Reign. The principal of all the  
rest is the *Closetting* the Members, and *Bribing* their Votes: This poisons our Liberties in  
the Fountain; and if you can be prevail'd on to give away, or to suspend our Liberties, or  
to connive at the Invasion of them, we shall derive Slavery from the Conservators of our  
Liberties, and are incapable of Remedy. This was highly complained of in the last  
Reign; and it is multiplied upon us: So as in this point we are reformed backwards; and  
from the *closetting* of One, we have reformed our selves into the *closetting* of Ten. In like  
manner, the foreign Troops constantly kept here, the Free-quarter of the Soldiers, the  
illegal Imprisonment of great and Noble Lords, and of Commons, unwarrantable Fines,  
and excessive Bail, and many other things in which the Liberty of the Subject is invaded in  
a high manner: And that which deserves your Care as much as any of the rest, is that  
every profligate and perjured Villain shall be admitted, if not countenanced, to accuse any  
Person, of what Quality soever; and a Man whose Word and Oath shall not pass for a Far-  
thing, shall swear the greatest Peer in the Kingdom out of his Liberty, and perhaps out  
of his Life. This is a growing Evil, and if there be not some effectual Stop put to it,  
there is not one of you can be secure one Moment, if there be but two Rogues that will  
agree together, or can be taught to accuse you or swear against you. These are plain  
and visible Grievances, and we humbly represent them to you, and apply our selves to you  
for Remedy, you have now an opportunity before you to remedy all our Evils, and to  
make such Provisions as may effectually secure us for the time to come. And we need not  
remember you, That it hath always been the Method of wise Parliaments, to have their  
Grievances redressed before they part with their Money.

Hitherto I have never feared to expose my own Person for the Good and Welfare of this Na-  
tion, and I am so sensible of your good Affections to me, that I shall continue to do so with great  
Carefulness, upon all Occasions wherein I may contribute to the Honor & Advantage of England.

The K. concludes with recommending himself to you by his personal Merits; we are not willing to suspect  
the K.'s Bravery, especially having it from his own Mouth, whatever some malicious People have said of his  
being, at the Battle of *Stirling*, at the top of a Hill a great way off, and out of Danger; and that he com-  
mands others into Danger, but keeps out of Harm's way himself: But however we conceive that this Age is  
not so fruitful of Heroes as of Flatterers; and this Province might have been safely committed to *John Arch Bp.*  
of Canterbury, and to the Dean of *St. Paul's*, and we are sorry the K. lives among bad Neighbours.

F I N I S.